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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/558,974	04/27/2000	Ari Vaisanen	NC26081-NC26105	1855
30973	7590	02/16/2005	EXAMINER	
SCHEEF & STONE, L.L.P. 5956 SHERRY LANE SUITE 1400 DALLAS, TX 75225			PHILPOTT, JUSTIN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2665	

DATE MAILED: 02/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/558,974	Applicant(s) VAISANEN ET AL.	
	Examiner Justin M Philpott	Art Unit 2665	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-9 and 21-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-9 and 21-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 12, 2004 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed October 12, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Specifically, applicant argues (page 8) that claims presently comprising subject matter from claims 10-15, which were indicated to comprise allowable subject matter in the Office Action mailed November 5, 2003, should be allowed for reasons previously discussed.

However, following an amendment in response to the Office Action of November 5, 2003, all of the claims were rejected under new grounds of rejection in the Office Action of May 5, 2004. That is, the most recent Office Action of May 5, 2004 did not indicate any of the claims comprise allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the pending claims are rejected for the same reasons discussed in the previous office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 3, 5, 6 and 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,272,322 to Su.

Regarding claims 21, 26 and 27, Su teaches in a WLAN having a first WLAN device (e.g., mobile unit 101 in FIG. 1) and at least a second WLAN device (e.g., mobile unit 102, see also col. 4, lines 30-34 wherein mobile units may comprise wireless local area network devices), each capable of communicating WLAN data, an improvement of apparatus for selectably connecting the first WLAN device and the second WLAN device, the apparatus comprising: a variable attenuator (e.g., step attenuator P1, see col. 5, lines 27-28 wherein “each path may comprise more than one unknown attenuation”) having a first port connectable to the first WLAN device (e.g., transceiver 301 is inherently coupled to mobile unit 101, see also FIG. 2A wherein P is coupled to “T”) and a second port (e.g., antenna 213) connectable to the second WLAN device (e.g., at the antenna of mobile unit 102 for wireless communications), a first WLAN device-generated signal (e.g., see col. 5, lines 35-42, wherein transceiver 301 transmits a signal at power P_{t1}) selectably applied to the first port when the first port is connected to the first WLAN device, the variable attenuator (e.g., step attenuator P1) for attenuating the first WLAN device-generated signal at a selected attenuation level (e.g., attenuating the signal by an

additional amount in accordance with a received signal, see col. 5, line 66 – col. 8, line 17) and for providing an attenuated signal at the second port thereof (e.g., transmitting attenuated signals between the mobile units once the path loss is determined and step attenuators P1 and P2 are adjusted accordingly, see col. 4, lines 20-29; col. 6, lines 10-49; and col. 7, line 46 – col. 8, line 7).

Further, Su teaches a test controller (e.g., comprising processing logic, see FIG. 4 and col. 5, line 29 – col. 6, line 64) located in the WAN devices (e.g., see col. 5, lines 29-42 regarding processing logic performed by each transceiver) coupled to the variable attenuator (e.g., see col. 6, lines 45-49 regarding power level calibration) and to the WLAN devices (e.g., see col. 5, lines 33-35 regarding loop back test for each transceiver) for selecting the selected attenuation level of the variable attenuator and for selecting parameters of the first WLAN device-generated signal (e.g., see col. 6, lines 45-49 regarding setting the power level calibration, transmit path gains and receive path gains; see also col. 7, lines 36-39 regarding processing logic calibrating the step attenuators for the transceivers), whereby the WLAN devices form a device under test and a control-device; wherein attenuation is performed via a resistor network (e.g., see col. 4, lines 51-52) which inherently comprises attenuation responsive to a plurality of resistive elements of different resistive values.

Regarding claim 3, Su teaches a first WLAN-device calibrator element (e.g., within 201-207 and “T” comprising mixer 211, see FIG. 2A) causes the first WLAN device to generate the first WLAN device-generated signal (e.g., see col. 4, lines 55-62).

Regarding claim 5, Su teaches a second WLAN-device calibrator element (e.g., within 201-207 and “T” comprising mixer comparable to mixer 211 but at the second mobile unit 102)

Art Unit: 2665

is located at the second WLAN device for controlling operation of the variable attenuator (e.g., step attenuator P1) to select the attenuation level (e.g., see col. 6, line 10 – col. 8, line 17, whereby the power transmitted by mobile unit 102, Pt2, affects the attenuation selection of P1).

Regarding claim 6, Su teaches the second WLAN-device calibrator element (e.g., within 201-207 and “T” at mobile unit 102) is further for measuring values of the attenuated signal (e.g., see col. 5, lines 29-32, wherein gain calibration may be performed via the hardware of FIGS. 2A/2B, software or combination of both) formed by the variable attenuator (e.g., step attenuator P1) and applied to the second WLAN device when the second WLAN device is connected to the second port (e.g., signals coupled via antennas) of the variable attenuator.

Regarding claim 22, Su teaches the second WLAN device (e.g., mobile unit 102) is connected (e.g., at the antenna of mobile unit 102 for wireless communications) to the second port (e.g., antenna 213) of the variable attenuator and the second WLAN device (e.g., mobile unit 102) measures values of the attenuated signal formed by the variable attenuator (e.g., see col. 5, lines 35-42).

Regarding claim 23, Su teaches the test controller (e.g., comprising processing logic of FIG. 4) is coupled to the second WLAN device (e.g., mobile 102) wherein the second WLAN device (e.g., mobile 102) forwards measured values of the attenuated signal to the test controller (e.g., see col. 5, line 55 – col. 6, line 49, wherein after the loop back tests are performed by the transceivers, the processing logic utilizes the results to perform the steps of processing logic in FIG. 4).

Regarding claim 24, Su teaches the test controller (e.g., comprising processing logic of FIG. 4) is operable to analyze operation of the first WLAN device (e.g., see col. 5, line 66 – col.

Art Unit: 2665

6, line 44 regarding processing logic determining path loss by utilizing signals received by the first mobile unit transceiver) in response to forwarded measured values by the second WLAN device (e.g., via transceiver of second mobile unit 102).

Regarding claim 25, Su teaches the parameters of the signal selected comprise a desired transmit power level (e.g., see col. 5, lines 33-42), a transmission frequency (e.g., see col. 9, lines 34-45), and a data rate (e.g., see col. 1, lines 36-40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Su.

Regarding claim 4, Su teaches the apparatus discussed above regarding claim 3 and further, while Su may not specifically disclose that the first WLAN communicates specifically by using a PCCARD, Examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the art for WLAN communications to be performed by using a PCCARD.

Regarding claim 7, Su teaches the apparatus discussed above regarding claim 6 and further, while Su may not specifically disclose the received measured power values comprise specifically RSSI (received signal strength indication) values, Examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the art for received measured power values to comprise RSSI values and also

Art Unit: 2665

Applicant admits measurements comprising RSSI values are well known in the art (page 3, lines 1-26).

Regarding claim 8, Su teaches the apparatus discussed above regarding claim 6 and further, while Su may not specifically disclose that the second WLAN communicates specifically by using a PCCARD, Examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the art for WLAN communications to be performed by using a PCCARD. Also, Su teaches the second WLAN-device calibrator element (e.g., within 201-207 and "T" at mobile unit 102) is further for forming a connection function (e.g., established power levels with respect to a set path loss, see col. 8, lines 8-17) responsive to measured values of the attenuated signal formed by the variable attenuator (e.g., step attenuator P1) at the selected attenuation level.

Regarding claim 9, Su teaches the second WLAN-device calibrator element selects the selected attenuator level of the variable attenuator to be of successively-different levels (e.g., variable attenuator P1 is a step attenuator which implies the attenuator to be of successively different levels), measures the attenuated signal formed at the second port (e.g., at antenna of 101) attenuated at the successively-different levels, and forms the connection function response thereto (e.g., establishes a power level with respect to a set path loss, see col. 8, lines 8-17).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin M Philpott whose telephone number is 571.272.3162. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:00am-5:00pm.

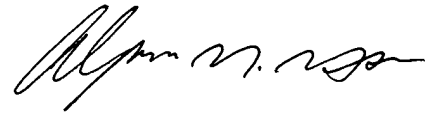
Art Unit: 2665

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy D Vu can be reached on 571.272.3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Justin M Philpott



ALPUS H. HSU
PRIMARY EXAMINER